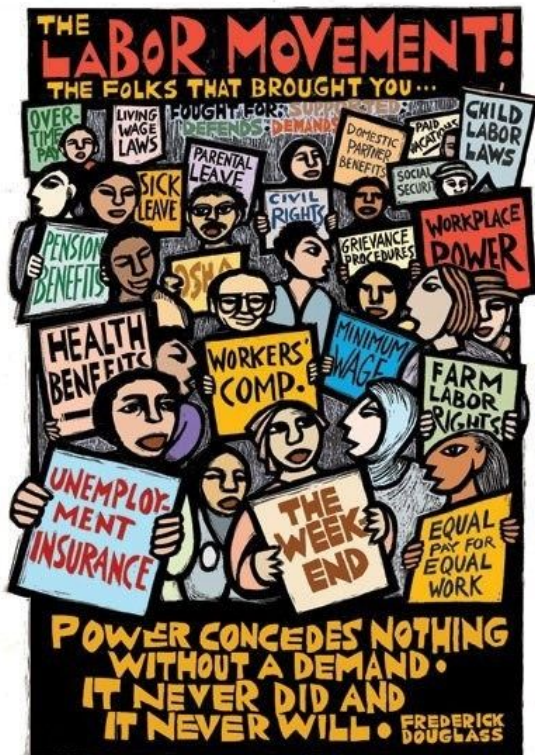


# Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP

## #scholarstrike Labor Day Message



### Happy Labor Day from the FWC / AAUP!

As most of us know, “Labor Day... constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.” These words –[the very first lines from the U.S. Department of Labor webpage](#)-- seem particularly poignant this year. For me, they feel personal.

There are many reasons why. Fundamentally, this day inspires me to consider how my life and liberty have been facilitated by workers across the globe, most of whom I will never know and few of whom will enjoy the fruits of their labor the way I do. Because I teach anthropology, explaining this is a basic requirement of my job. There is no species more interdependent than we are. Our young are born unfinished, inchoate, and vulnerable. It is our collective responsibility to enculturate them, to imbue them with language, discernment, and values, to make possible lives they find meaningful, lives worthy of their full humanity. Every Labor Day reminds me of the people who invested their labor in me, who built me physically and psychically, from my parents and teachers to factory workers and farmhands. And it reminds me that it is my privilege to pay this forward, to invest my energy in others so that our community and our world can be as vital and free as possible. (con’t on page 3)

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- ✓ Page 2: From our colleagues at *Racial Justice is Social Justice*

**From:** Racial Justice is Social Justice <RJSJ@fairfield.edu>

**Date:** Monday, September 7, 2020 at 11:50 AM

**Subject:** #ScholarStrike Sept. 8-9

Good afternoon everyone:

This week, on Sept 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, there is a national movement in higher education, #ScholarStrike, which is asking faculty, staff and administrators to pause and teach-in about race, policing and mass incarceration. You can find media coverage here: <https://www.cnn.com/2020/09/01/us/professors-plan-protest-scholar-strike-trnd/index.html> and more information and resources on the website: <https://www.scholarstrike.com/> There is also a [Facebook page](#) for those on social media.

The idea is to create space and time to focus on teaching and change for racial justice. For those interested in participating, feel free to be creative – maybe it emerges as a theme, text, or prompt in one or more classes this week; maybe it is a moment of reflection in a student meeting outside of the classroom; maybe it is the setting aside of time to develop action steps for an individual program or department committed to anti-racism; or maybe it is an individual commitment to set aside time for personal development (hint: the [Library's anti-racism resource guide](#) could be a first stop).

Please share your plans for action on the following Quip page (only accessible to FairfieldU members): <https://fairfield.quip.com/LjxaAteYbQOL/ScholarStrike> We will continuously post new resources to this page, as well.

Alternatively, email your plans for action to [rjsj@fairfield.edu](mailto:rjsj@fairfield.edu) and indicate if you are willing to have us post them to the Quip page (on your behalf or anonymously).

Best,

Racial Justice is Social Justice (RJSJ)

### **Happy Labor Day from the FWC/AAUP (continued from page 1)**

This year our human interdependence has been painfully demonstrated. Ideologies of individualism and national exceptionalism have been savaged by a virus that cares little for political boundaries, and while Covid attacks the vulnerable with particular cruelty, wealth and privilege are at best a temporary haven. It seems simple. My health depends on your mask. Your child's school reopening depends on my child's hand washing. Social distancing is just that: *social* distancing, working together to stay safe. The food on my table depends on front line, "essential" workers who risked their lives to get it there. This is a lesson we must learn if we expect our civilization to thrive, or survive: all workers are essential. All of us matter. As my friends remind me, one finger cannot lift a pebble.

And this calls us to contemplate lives that have *not* mattered. Over the next two days, September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, many colleagues on campus and across the nation will be supporting the Black Lives Matter movement through #ScholarStrike. Some are withholding their labor. Others will be devoting time to teaching and contemplation of racial injustice. For those looking for information or ways to contribute, some resources are below.

Speaking personally, this week I was astonished at the rush of pure joy I felt to be back in a classroom in front of real, three-dimensional students. I had forgotten how much I love my job. And at the same time I am terrified. I am frightened of the virus, and the risk of passing it to someone vulnerable, and I am scared that again, as so many times in my life, we will fail to make this a turning point in our national racial tragedy, fail to see Black Americans as fellow Americans once and for all.

Happy Labor Day, 2020.

In solidarity,  
Dave Crawford  
President, FWC / AAUP

#### **RESOURCES:**

<https://www.scholarstrike.com/>

<https://academeblog.org/2020/09/02/scholar-strike/>

<https://www.insidehighered.com/quicktakes/2020/09/04/scholarstrike-begin-tuesday>

<https://www.asanet.org/scholarstrike>

<https://www.americananthro.org/ConnectWithAAA/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=2583>

FWC/AAUP Executive Committee: Dave Crawford, President; Maggie Labinski, Vice-President; Bill Abbott, Secretary; Paul Baginski, Treasurer; At-large members: Jen Adair, Peter Bayers, Anita Fernandez, Shannon Kelley. Immediate Past-President Irene Mulvey